

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 14269 051240Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 SP-02 INR-10
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-----075006 051244Z /47

O 051144Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9921

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 14269

STADIS//////////

FOR ASST SEC SAUNDERS AND AMBASSADOR EILTS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP EG US
SUBJECT: GENERAL GAMASY'S VISIT TO U.S. -- LEVEL OF
- RECEPTION AT ANDREWS AFB

1. JUST BEFORE HE LEFT FOR PARIS ON GENERAL GAMASY'S
PRESIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT, DATT TOLD ME THAT DOD HAS NOT YET
DECIDED WHO WILL BE SENIOR OFFICIAL WHO WILL GREET GENERAL
GAMASY ON HIS ARRIVAL AT ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE AT 4:00
PM JUNE 6. LAST INFORMATION DATT HAD INFORMALLY RECEIVED
WAS THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ISA MCGIFFORD WOULD
PROBABLY BE THE OFFICIAL GREETER FROM THE PENTAGON. I
AGREE WITH DATT THAT GENERAL GAMASY COULD WELL BE
OFFENDED AT NOT BEING RECEIVED BY MORE SENIOR OFFICIAL
AND THAT THIS MIGHT CAST A PALL ON ENTIRE VISIT.

2. AS YOU KNOW, GAMASY WAS INVITED TO VISIT U.S. BY
SECDEF AND HE WILL BE FIRST EGYPTION MINISTER OF WAR TO
VISIT OUR COUNTRY. EGYPTIANS TEND TO BE RATHER PROTOCOL
CONSCIOUS AND GENERALLY EXPECT TO BE RECEIVED BY THEIR
OPPOSITE NUMBERS WHEN THEY VISIT OTHER COUNTRIES. WHILE
WE HAVE PURPOSELY NOT DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT WITH
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GENERAL GAMASY, I BELIEVE HE WILL HOPE TO BE MET BY
SECDEF. IF THIS SHOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE, BELIEVE THAT
EITHER DEPUTY SECDEF OR CHAIRMAN JCS SHOULD ENDEAVOR TO
DO SO.

3. I UNDERSTAND THAT WORKING LEVELS OF DOD HAVE ARGUED
THAT LOWER LEVEL OFFICIAL RECEPTION IS JUSTIFIED BY FACT

THAT OFFICIAL VISIT DOES NOT BEGIN UNTIL JUNE 7 AND
THAT ISRAELI MINDEF WEIZMAN WAS RECEIVED AT THIS LEVEL.
I DO NOT THINK EITHER OF THESE REASONS IS VALID,
ESPECIALLY AS WEIZMAN HAS VISITED U.S. MANY TIMES AND
THIS WILL BE GAMASY'S FIRST AS MINISTER OF WAR. GAMASY
ALSO BEARS THE RANK OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND IS THE
SENIOR ONE.

4. THEREFORE RECOMMEND YOUR INTERCEDING WITH DOD TO
ARRANGE HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL RECEPTION FOR GENERAL
GAMASY TO ASSURE THAT THIS IMPORTANT VISIT GETS OFF TO
A GOOD START. MATTHEWS

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